

James P. Burns House  
Minersville Neighborhood  
171-73 Iron Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5932

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PA,  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAMES P. BURNS HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5932

Location: 171-73 Iron Street, Minersville, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Two-and-a-half stories, wood-frame building accommodating a saloon and a dwelling. Irregular plan, 36' x 45'. Stone basement. The principal front has asphalt and vinyl covering. The entrance to the dwelling had an attractive carved wooden porch which was replaced after 1981 by plain timber posts. The saloon has a brick front framed by wooden pilasters and fascia. One of the pilasters is carved and has an attractive carved console bracket. Second-floor five-bay facade has architraved windows. Gambrel roof with three dormers.

History: In June 1891 Thomas and James Minahan sold this property to James P. Burns. In 1891 James P. Burns is noted in the city directory as a saloon keeper at 215 Iron St. It is possible no. 173 had a different number at this period. This building was definitely built by 1895, as it is shown on the 1895 Sanborn map as a two-story structure known as the Arlington Hotel. By 1911 the third story had been added.

In the 1900 census James P. Burns is noted as 42 years old, from Pennsylvania of Irish parents, occupation saloon keeper. He had a wife and six children.

In November 1925 Burns delivered a deed for the premises to Jacob Adamy, but this had been lost and never recorded. Jacob Adamy died and it was not until 1941 that the property was officially registered in Adamy's name.

Sources:

"Cambria County Historic Sites Survey, Johnstown Inventory," Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County, 1981.

Deed Records (77:202, 498:220, 1052:689), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1896, 1899.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Co., 1895, 1911.

Tax assessment card, assessment no. 84-02-213, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 14th Ward, 1900 and 1910.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Bernadette Goslin in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Goslin's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic

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Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.